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OUR 1937 CLUB PROGRAM

A radio talk by Miss Elisabeth G. Clark, Club Agent, Tolland County, Connecticut, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, of the National Farm and Home Hour, January 2, 1937, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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Tolland County, the smallest in Connecticut, has active 4-H club work in each of its 13 towns. Typical of a large portion of New England, the county has a number of manufacturing villages and small summer lake resorts. Its rural areas embrace many part-time farms and country residences for city commuters, interspersed with its agricultural enterprises. Hence our 4-H club members have varied home backgrounds. In spite of the marked tendency toward school consolidation, rural one room schools remain in the majority of the towns.

Many 4-H clubs are centered within these small school districts although few clubs are carried on in direct conjunction with the schools, other than health and handicraft projects. However, school authorities along with the more active rural organizations, particularly Grange, Parent-Teacher Associations, and Legion Posts frequently do cooperate with the club agents in forwarding the 4-H work.

Our 1937 club program consists of certain new features in addition to a continuation and strengthening of past activities. In discussing plan I will speak first of the project work and secondly of organization and concomitant activities.

In keeping with the nation-wide program of conservation of natural resources, two new phases of work have been planned--a forestry project with older boys, and a nature program for younger boys and girls. The State Nature League is cooperating on the latter and we hope to develop a greater appreciation of natural surroundings and a knowledge of and desire for their preservation.

The largest agricultural enterprise in the county is dairy with poultry and specialized crops also extensive. The agricultural club agent is therefore planning expansion in dairy club work stressing efficient production through improved methods. He is also planning special dairy tours to acquaint the boys with milk cooperatives and the Producers' Association. Poultry clubs will continue efforts toward higher egg production encouraged by the county 4-H Egg Laying Contest. Home gardens both vegetable and flower, handicraft, and beef work will also be engaged in by a considerable enrollment.

In homemaking work the new unit plan adopted by Connecticut in 1936 will function more extensively. This means that any homemaking club may major in some phase of clothing, food, or health work and also carry a supplementary unit of another project. Such other topics as local courtesies, table manners and nature study are available. We hope through

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this system to offer a well rounded program to the girls, without sacrificing quality accomplishments. Clothing work will probably continue to predominate. The Dress Revue contest has been exceedingly popular in our county and has done much toward training the girls to make wise wardrobe selections. We are anticipating a record enrollment in our revue because of the organization in 1936 of a number of new clothing clubs that will be ready to make complete outfits this year. Food work, especially general preparation and meal planning will also carry fair size enrollment; some new groups are already under way. Although not a large number enroll in the food preservation work the 2000 quarts canned in 1936 will probably be exceeded in 1937 and the better balanced winter meals served in those families affected is a nutritional factor not to be overlooked.

The 1937 health program includes two types of work, a posture program for all boys and girls enrolled in club work in the county, and a more intensive program, also on posture, carried by several school clubs.

With encouragement of the local leaders and committeemen we expect our club members to maintain the high percentage of completions which has been 90% or close to it for the past four years.

As club agents we have faith that our young people will continue their enthusiasm, and perseverance, and high quality of work and that they will inspire younger boys and girls in their communities to join 4-H clubs and carry on, in many instances under the leadership of older or former 4-H club members.
